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Attachment to Z-15766/82

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NPIC/IEG (7/82)

9 JULY 1982

M-1981/3 TANK PRODUCTION
NIZHNIY TAGIL TANK/RR CAR MFG PLT 183, USSR

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1. (S/D) **SIGNIFICANCE:** FIRST CONFIRMATION OF M-1981/3 TANK PRODUCTION AT NIZHNIY TAGIL TANK/RR CAR MFG PLT 183.
2. (S/D) **REMARKS:** TWO M-1981/3 TANKS WERE IN THE SHIPPING YARD AT NIZHNIY TAGIL TANK/RR CAR MFG PLT 183.
 THE M-1981/3 IS A T-72 VARIANT WITH A TURRET THAT IS BROADER ON EITHER SIDE OF THE GUN MANTLET THAN THE STANDARD T-72 OR OTHER T-72 VARIANTS. OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF THE M-1981/3 TURRET INCLUDE THE ABSENCE OF THE RIGHT-SIDE RANGE FINDER AND THE ADDITION OF GRENADE PROJECTORS TO EITHER SIDE OF THE GUN MANTLET. THE M-1981/3 IS THE T-72 VARIANT SEEN IN THE NOVEMBER 1981 MOSCOW PARADE (INSET).

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(S/D) THE TWO M-1981/3 TANKS WERE THE ONLY TWO OF THE 46 TANKS IN THE SHIPPING YARD THAT WERE NOT CANVAS COVERED. IN ADDITION, TEN CANVAS-COVERED TANKS WERE ON FLATCARS AWAITING SHIPMENT. THE CANVAS-COVERED TANKS COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BY MODEL. ALTHOUGH TURRETS FOR THE M-1981/3 WERE WITHIN THE PLANT FROM SEPTEMBER 1980 TO JUNE 1981, THIS IS THE FIRST CONFIRMATION OF PRODUCTION OF THIS TANK AT NIZHNIY TAGIL. IN ADDITION TO THE M-1981/3, THIS PLANT IS BELIEVED TO STILL PRODUCE THE STANDARD T-72 AND THE M-1980/1 T-72 VARIANT.

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3. (S) _____ COORDINATES 57-55-42N 060-05-39E

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Intelligence Sources
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